

REMARKS

Claims 1-35, as amended, remain herein. Petition for Extension of Time and Notice of Appeal are being filed concurrently. Claim 1 was amended as discussed in the Examiner's Interview of 12/04/06. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's opinion that the amendment would place claim 1 in condition for allowance, subject to a prior art search. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification. For example, see Figs. 3-10 and page 9, line 22- page 13, line 25. No new matter has been added.

1. Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 22 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1, 6, 7, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Pawlak U.S. Patent No. 5,883,557. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pawlak. In light of the amendment discussed in the Examiner's Interview and included in claim 1, these rejections are now moot. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of all claims 1, 6-8, 20 and 23 are respectfully requested.

3. Applicant notes and appreciates the statement in the Office Action that claims 2-5, 9-19, 21, 22, and 24-35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112, paragraph two, rejection and to include all limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. The claims have been so rewritten. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of all claims 2-5, 9-19, 21, 22, and 24-35 are respectfully requested.

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This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant appreciates the examiner's consideration and attention.

The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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